

# SENSATIONAL MOVES IN BASEBALL.

There is an undercurrent of only partially disguised discontent in the baseball world which, I am afraid, will break out into a positive disruption before another season comes around. Probably for the first time in the history of the National league the club owners realize that they have not kept pace with the minor leagues. Hereto-



CHARLES A. FARRELL.

fore the smaller leagues have had all the trouble. This year the major organization seems to have had more than its share of trouble. There have been seasons when practically none of the clubs, either of the minor or the major leagues, has made much of a profit on the season. This year, if losses there be, the majority of disappointments will be among the supposed stronger clubs. I do not mean to insinuate that most of the National league clubs will lose money this year, for I don't believe they will, but they will not make as much money as was expected when the circuit was cut down from a dozen to eight clubs. I do not believe that a single club in the League, with the possible exception of Freedman's Tammany Hall Tigers, will lose anything to speak of. Yet the fact that the smaller leagues have all done so well this year shows conclusively that it has not been an off season for the national game.

The dissatisfaction among the owners of the major league clubs would indicate that something is wrong in that particular organization. The club owners have laid entirely too much stress upon the mighty dollar, their treatment of their newspaper friends has been discourteous, they blundered when they forced the single umpire system back down the throat of the public, and they blundered most unfortunately when they admitted that they were unable to put a summary stop to rowdy tactics on the field. Let the moneyed men of the game think calmly over these few suggestions, adapt different tactics next year, and the chances are that the troubles of 1901 will be insignificant.

While not an admirer of insurrections and secessions in sports or anything else, I cannot help thinking that the coming winter will see some sensational moves made in baseball. It is admitted that the National league must be reorganized, simply because that famous Indianapolis agreement will expire next season. The people interested in the formation of a new association have not been idle during the present summer, although they have said nothing about their intentions. Premature publications spoiled their plans last winter, and they have learned a lesson. The organization of the Players' association places another factor in the field which is a practical menace to the club owners. Should the players decide to cast their lot with the newcomers, then the troubles of the fraternity will be varied and many. The League men, remembering their victory over the Brotherhood, are disposed to talk lightly of the new Players' association. They seem to forget that the new organization includes within its ranks not only the players in the larger league, but in most of the state, interstate, eastern and western leagues as well. The Eastern league, presided over by P. T. Powers, is friendly to the League, but the chances are that the loyalty of the American league clubs is not so certain. Should the Western association fall into line and a general war be made against the millionaires of the National league, the latter would have all the trouble they could hope to handle. Of course the club owners of the big league have organization and money, but a combination of the minor leagues and all the players would win in the end, provided they stood back to back.

It is the general opinion that the players have been wise in their selection of officers. Charles Zimmer is one of the veteran and brainy men of the profession. He has the confidence of the club owners and respect of the players. Hugh Jennings, the secretary, upon whose shoulders much of the active work must fall, is another brainy player who can hold his own in a de-

## Possible Troubles In Store For the Millionaire Managers of the Big League.

bate with any club owner in the League. Jennings is a clever chap and very well read.

Charles A. Farrell, called the "Duke of Westbury" by his friends, is another of the veteran players whose advice is sought by the officials of the Players' association. There are few men in the profession today with better balanced minds. The "duke" is one of the greatest ball players that ever lived. He did much to save the New York club in 1894, and no better man ever stood behind the bat to advise and encourage a young pitcher. I have seen one of these youngsters stand on his head and tear rips in his hands when he was trying to stop wild ones, yet the veteran never lost his temper, and by a few well chosen words and signs he would transfer that hawklike youngster into a pitcher of skill and speed. Farrell has saved considerable of the salary he has drawn during his many years of activity on the baseball field, and his real estate holdings in New England must bring him in a pretty penny in the course of a year. He has been successful in his investments. Jennings can also draw a check of a considerable amount if he feels like it. Zimmer is also well to do in the matter of Uncle Sam's dollars.

A. C. Anson would have been a rich man today but for his sporting spirit. The veteran Chicago leader was positive in his opinions, and he liked nothing better than to back up those opinions with cash. When the "fans" of Chicago began their crusade against the old warhorse, Anson felt pretty bad. He had worked the best years of his life for that town in a baseball sense, and when the papers began to yell that the old man must be turned adrift Anson was a disheartened man. Still he thought that Spalding would stand by him to the last, and for a long time he paid little attention to his tormentors. He had been called old so often that one day the veteran appeared on the field with snow white hair and a set of granger's lilies, the latter reaching to his waist. The on-lookers were astonished to see Anson in such a disguise. But in one inning a hit was needed mightily badly to win the game, and when the disguised warhorse went to the bat his white whiskers almost tied a knot behind his head. A few of the jokers in the stand whistled to represent the breed



HUGH JENNINGS.

sweeping through the whiskers. Well, Anson got the ball where he wanted it and sent it over the fence for a home run. The hit won the game, and Anson pulled off his wig and threw his false whiskers to the ground. His enemies left him alone for a long time after that.

G. E. STACKHOUSE.

### Mauser Rifles In Hunting.

One of the after results of the Spanish war, says E. T. Keyser in the New York Times, which promise to have many fatal effects is the distribution of captured Mauser rifles throughout the country. Many of these were sold by the United States government to the large contractors who attend at auction sales and bought them in at a very low figure. These were refurbished and sold to jobbers and sporting goods dealers and are now being advertised at prices as low as \$10 each. When it is considered that these rifles used about the most powerful cartridge which has yet been devised by military science, and they are made for the purpose of man killing and have a range of considerably over a mile and a penetration of several inches of solid plank at 100 feet, it will be understood just what lively times will be experienced in the suburbs when these weapons become distributed among country boys and men who do not know much about firearms, but have bought these because they are cheap. In the hands of the careful man and loaded with cartridges containing a soft nose bullet they are magnificent hunting weapons for large game like moose, caribou or grizzly bear, but there is fun in store for some one when their owners charge the magazines with the full jacketed projectile and start out to kill squirrel and muskrat or see how close they can come to a tin can suspended from a tree.

## WHAT LEAGUERS WANT

Queer Letters Sent to Officials of the L. A. W.

KICKS OF INCONCEIVABLE KINDS.

A Member Who Wanted Much For His Money—Applications For Reduced Rates of All Sorts—Work For Better Roads.

If officials of the League of American Wheelmen would compile a book of their humorous experiences, it would doubtless find a ready sale among cyclists. Incidentally it might also relieve them of repetitions.

It seems that every bicycle rider, whether a member of the organization or not, considers it his duty to write the officials upon every subject that comes to his attention. These usually take the shape of reforms. They want the wheelmen's organization to rise in its might and correct all the abuses of mankind. However, as a usual thing, they confine themselves to matters of cycling interest, particularly the building and repairing of roads and side paths and the granting of privileges to wheelmen.

The L. A. W. is to be credited with all of the rights and privileges now enjoyed by wheelmen generally, and it is constantly working in the same cause besides providing exceptional privileges for its members. But this is not sufficient in the minds of many, and they believe that because the league has been so successful in its particular line it is capable of extending itself.

Others request streets and roads that are in need of repair and seem to think that the league does such work without regard to city or county officials. The L. A. W. does stir up these officials and has accomplished an untold amount of work in this direction, but beyond agitating the matter it can, of course, do nothing. Requests for touring routes in all parts of the world are received, and many of the applicants are disappointed if they are provided with much less than a personal conductor.

Here is a sample letter recently received by Chief Consul Belding of the New York division: "A young man on a small salary makes up his mind to take a young lady on a trip. (say to Coney Island). They start. Their first stopping place is —s. they rest. (10 cents for Wheels) their next stopping —s 10 cents wheels. on arrival at the island, wheels checked 10 cents, enabling them to spend a Couple of Hours for Pleasure. on their return they have to stop for rest & refreshment. at a cost of 20 cents for wheels.



W. H. SABIN.

[Chief consul Vermont division L. A. W.]

Why don't the L. A. W. have men in Uniform to check the wheels of the L. A. W. members all over the State. The Hotels would pay the men's salaries for the Honor of designating their Hostilities as stopping places. Wheeling is getting very expensive. You can take Your Girl on a Trolley for five cents and spend the rest in refreshments. Give us members something for our money. We are getting tired. What do we get for our Money?"

In somewhat the same line was the letter received by the chief consul of another state, in which the writer wanted the L. A. W. to have men placed at the top of several steep hills to warn riders of dangerous turns near the bottom. This had some practical effect, however, as the division placed "Danger!" boards at the hills cautioning riders about coasting at a dangerous speed. Another rider, a little more modest, complained that he was not allowed to enter race meets upon presentation of his membership ticket. A worse case was that of a member who thought his ticket entitled him to ride on trolley cars without paying fares for his wheel when it was damaged.

On the other hand, there have been some peculiar instances of the value of league membership. For instance, it is common for members to use their membership tickets as a means of identification in cashing money orders, checks and drafts. In one city members of the L. A. W. only are allowed to carry their wheels on the trolley lines, and the conductors are required to see the membership ticket. Of course a fare is paid for the bicycle. The league also has official hotels in all parts of the country at which members are allowed a discount, and repair shops are also operating under this plan. These make some peculiar happenings at times. For instance, one member sent in a bill for repairs to his wheel to the L. A. W. because he had the work done at an official repair shop and presumed that these places were so designated simply to systematize the work of repairing the wheels of members at the expense of the organization.

GEORGE L. MCCARTHY.

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